

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A bicycle rim comprising:

an annular tire attachment portion adapted to have a tire mounted thereon;

an annular spoke attachment portion fixedly coupled with the tire attachment portion, the spoke attachment portion including an interior surface, a pair of annular side sections and an inner annular section to form a substantially U-shaped cross-sectional shape with an annular hollow area, the spoke attachment portion further including a plurality of circumferentially spaced attachment openings with each opening having a central axis extending therethrough; and

a plurality of reinforcement members fixedly coupled to the spoke attachment portion at the attachment openings to effectively increase the thickness of the spoke attachment portion of the rim at the attachment openings, each of the reinforcement members being bonded to the spoke attachment portion and being a one-piece unitary member, each of the reinforcement members having inner threads configured to directly couple a threaded end of a spoke and having a base section including:

a rim facing surface contacting an outer surface of the spoke attachment portion of the rim,

an exterior facing surface that faces in an opposite direction from the rim facing surface, and

a through opening that is aligned with one of the attachment openings,

each of the reinforcement members not having a cylindrical projection extending from the exterior facing surface in an inner radial direction and the interior surface being free from contact with the reinforcement member.

2. (Currently Amended) A bicycle rim comprising:

an annular tire attachment portion adapted to have a tire mounted thereon;

an annular spoke attachment portion fixedly coupled with the tire attachment portion, the spoke attachment portion ~~further~~ including an interior surface and a plurality of circumferentially spaced attachment openings with each opening having a central axis extending therethrough; and

a plurality of reinforcement members fixedly coupled to the spoke attachment portion at the attachment openings to effectively increase the thickness of the spoke attachment portion of the rim at the attachment openings, each of the reinforcement members having a base section and being bonded to the spoke attachment portion by melting metal to form a bond between the outer surface of the spoke attachment portion of the rim and the base section and having inner threads configured to directly couple a threaded end of a spoke, each of the reinforcement members being a one-piece unitary member, the base section including

a rim facing surface contacting an outer surface of the spoke attachment portion of the rim,

an exterior facing surface that faces in an opposite direction from the rim facing surface, and

a through opening that is aligned with one of the attachment openings,

each of the reinforcement members not having a cylindrical projection extending from the exterior facing surface in an inner radial direction and the interior surface being free from contact with the reinforcement member.

3. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 2, wherein the bond between the outer surface of the spoke attachment portion of the rim and each of the base sections is formed by brazing.

4. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 3, wherein each of the reinforcement members includes a tubular section extending from the base section through one of the attachment openings of the spoke attachment portion.

5. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 4 wherein each of the tubular sections has internal threads formed therein.

6. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 5, wherein each of the reinforcement members has an annular peripheral edge defined by the base section that defines a step between the base section and the outer surface of the spoke attachment portion.

7. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 6, wherein the annular peripheral edges of the reinforcement members includes a tapering part and a radial part.

8. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 1, wherein each of the reinforcement members has an annular peripheral edge defined by the base section that defines a step between the base section and the outer surface of the spoke attachment portion.

9. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 8, wherein the annular peripheral edges of the reinforcement members includes a tapering part and a radial part.

10. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 9, wherein each of the reinforcement members includes a tubular section extending from the base section through one of the attachment openings of the spoke attachment portion.

11. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 10 wherein each of the tubular sections has internal threads formed therein.

12. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 1, wherein the rim facing surface of each of the reinforcement members has a U-shaped contour in the axial direction of the rim to match an exterior contour of the outer surface of the spoke attachment portion.

13. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 3, wherein
each of the reinforcement members has an annular peripheral edge defined by the base
section that defines a step between the base section and the outer surface of the spoke
attachment portion.

14. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 1, wherein
each of the reinforcement members is integrally formed as a one-piece, unitary
member.

15. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 1, wherein
the attachment openings are formed in an inner annular section such that the central
axes of the attachment openings extend in generally a radial direction of the rim.

16. (Currently Amended) A bicycle rim comprising:
an annular tire attachment portion adapted to have a tire mounted thereon, the tire
attachment portion including an annular bridge section extending between a pair of annular
tire support sections to form a substantially U-shaped cross-sectional shape;
an annular spoke attachment portion fixedly coupled with the tire attachment portion,
the spoke attachment portion including an interior surface and a plurality of circumferentially
spaced attachment openings with each opening having a central axis extending therethrough,
the spoke attachment portion being fixedly coupled to the tire attachment portion to form an
annular hollow area therebetween; and
a plurality of reinforcement members fixedly coupled to the spoke attachment portion
at the attachment openings to effectively increase the thickness of the spoke attachment

portion of the rim at the attachment openings, each of the reinforcement members being bonded to the spoke attachment portion and being a one-piece unitary member, each of the reinforcement members having inner threads configured to directly couple a threaded end of a spoke and having a base section including

a rim facing surface contacting an outer surface of the spoke attachment

portion of the rim,

an exterior facing surface that faces in an opposite direction from the rim facing surface, and

a through opening that is aligned with one of the attachment openings,

each of the reinforcement members not having a cylindrical projection extending from the exterior facing surface in an inner radial direction and the interior surface being free from contact with the reinforcement member.

17. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 16, wherein the annular bridge section is free of openings except for a single valve aperture formed therein.

18. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 17, wherein each of the reinforcement members includes a tubular section extending from the base section through one of the attachment openings of the spoke attachment portion.

19. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 18, wherein each of the tubular sections has internal threads formed therein.

20. (Original) The bicycle rim according to claim 1, wherein
each of the reinforcement members has a maximum overlapping dimension
overlapping the annular spoke attachment portion as measured from an outer peripheral edge
to a respective one of the attachment openings with the maximum overlapping dimension
being at least half as large as a maximum transverse dimension of the attachment openings.